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# Pennsylvania Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **PENNSYLVANIA TROUT PRODUCTION VALUED AT \$5.39 MILLION**

**HARRISBURG --- Pennsylvania's** 54 commercial trout growers sold 1.90 million pounds of trout, valued at \$5.39 million during 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). In addition to those sold, an estimated \$9.59 million worth of trout were distributed for conservation and recreational purposes throughout the state, primarily by state hatcheries and private fishing clubs. PASS, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of foodsize trout (usually 12 inches or longer) by the state's growers totaled 1.50 million pounds, or 47 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was up 70,000 lbs or 5 percent from the same period a year ago. Averaging \$2.61 per pound, compared to \$2.48 last year and \$1.08 nationally, the foodsize trout were valued at \$3.94 million. Fee and recreational sales accounted for 49 percent of the foodsize production, and restaurant and retail sales also accounted for 24 percent.

Sales of stocker trout (usually 6 to 12 inches long) by Pennsylvania growers totaled 1,250,000 fish, or 372,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 188,000 lbs or 34 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$3.35 a pound, compared to \$3.11 last year and \$2.52 nationally, stocker sales were valued at \$1.25 million, with 83 percent of the volume sold to fee and recreational establishments.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission but also by private fishing clubs, included 26 thousand 12" or longer fish, 5.8 million 6-12" fish, and 1.9 million fingerlings.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

For the 20 selected states, all trout sales during 1999 totaled 62.8 million pounds valued at \$77 million, an increase of 4 percent from 1998. The state of Idaho had almost half the total value. Foodsize trout sales accounted for 96 percent of the pounds sold with 64 percent of that amount purchased by processors. Fee and recreational fishing establishments, at 19 percent, were the next largest outlet for foodsize trout, followed by restaurants and retailers with 11 percent.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by state and federal hatcheries, included 3.78 million 12" or longer fish, 56.6 million 6-12" fish, and 74.3 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 63.4 million dollars.